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# Approximation of linear mappings in Banach modules over $C^*$ -algebras

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available at the end of the article**Abstract**

Let  $X, Y$  be Banach modules over a  $C^*$ -algebra and let  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \mathbb{R}$  be given. Using fixed-point methods, we prove the stability of the following functional equation in Banach modules over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra:

$$\sum_{j=1}^n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq j} r_i x_i - \frac{1}{2} r_j x_j\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n r_i f(x_i) = n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i\right).$$

As an application, we investigate homomorphisms in unital  $C^*$ -algebras.

**MSC:** 39B72; 46L05; 47H10; 46B03; 47B48**Keywords:** fixed point; Hyers-Ulam stability; super-stability; generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping; homomorphism;  $C^*$ -algebra

## 1 Introduction and preliminaries

We say a functional equation  $(\zeta)$  is stable if any function  $g$  satisfying the equation  $(\zeta)$  approximately is near to the true solution of  $(\zeta)$ . We say that a functional equation is superstable if every approximate solution is an exact solution of it (see [1]). The stability problem of functional equations was originated from a question of Ulam [2] concerning the stability of group homomorphisms. Hyers [3] gave a first affirmative partial answer to the question of Ulam in Banach spaces. Hyers' theorem was generalized by Aoki [4] for additive mappings and by T.M. Rassias [5] for linear mappings by considering an unbounded Cauchy difference. A generalization of the T.M. Rassias theorem was obtained by Găvruta [6] by replacing the unbounded Cauchy difference by a general control function in the spirit of T.M. Rassias' approach.

The functional equation

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

is called a *quadratic functional equation*. In particular, every solution of the quadratic functional equation is said to be a *quadratic mapping*. A Hyers-Ulam stability problem for the quadratic functional equation was proved by Skof [7] for mappings  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , where  $X$  is a normed space and  $Y$  is a Banach space. Cholewa [8] noticed that the theorem of Skof is still true if the relevant domain  $X$  is replaced by an Abelian group. Czerwik [9] proved the Hyers-Ulam stability of the quadratic functional equation. J.M. Rassias [10, 11] introduced

and investigated the stability problem of Ulam for the Euler-Lagrange quadratic functional equation

$$f(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2) + f(a_2x_1 - a_1x_2) = (a_1^2 + a_2^2)[f(x_1) + f(x_2)]. \quad (1.1)$$

Grabiec [12] has generalized these results mentioned above.

The stability problems of several functional equations have been extensively investigated by a number of authors and there are many interesting results concerning this problem (see [13–43]).

Let  $X$  be a set. A function  $d : X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is called a *generalized metric* on  $X$  if  $d$  satisfies the following conditions:

- (1)  $d(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ ;
- (2)  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ ;
- (3)  $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

We recall a fundamental result in fixed-point theory.

**Theorem 1.1** [44, 45] *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete generalized metric space and let  $J : X \rightarrow X$  be a strictly contractive mapping with Lipschitz constant  $L < 1$ . Then, for each given element  $x \in X$ , either*

$$d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) = \infty$$

*for all nonnegative integers  $n$  or there exists a positive integer  $n_0$  such that*

- (1)  $d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) < \infty$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ ;
- (2) *the sequence  $\{J^n x\}$  converges to a fixed point  $y^*$  of  $J$ ;*
- (3)  $y^*$  *is the unique fixed point of  $J$  in the set  $Y = \{y \in X \mid d(J^{n_0} x, y) < \infty\}$ ;*
- (4)  $d(y, y^*) \leq \frac{1}{1-L} d(y, Jy)$  for all  $y \in Y$ .

In 1996, Isac and T.M. Rassias [46] were the first to provide applications of stability theory of functional equations for the proof of new fixed-point theorems with applications. By using fixed-point methods, the stability problems of several functional equations have been extensively investigated by a number of authors (see [47–58]).

Recently, Park and Park [59] introduced and investigated the following additive functional equation of Euler-Lagrange type:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i=1}^n r_i L \left( \sum_{j=1}^n r_j (x_i - x_j) \right) + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \right) L \left( \sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i \right) \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \right) \sum_{i=1}^n r_i L(x_i), \quad r_1, \dots, r_n \in (0, \infty) \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

whose solution is said to be a *generalized additive mapping of Euler-Lagrange type*.

In this paper, we introduce the following additive functional equation of Euler-Lagrange type which is somewhat different from (1.2):

$$\sum_{j=1}^n f \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq j} r_i x_i - \frac{1}{2} r_j x_j \right) + \sum_{i=1}^n r_i f(x_i) = n f \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i \right), \quad (1.3)$$

where  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \mathbb{R}$ . Every solution of the functional equation (1.3) is said to be a *generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping*.

Using fixed-point methods, we investigate the Hyers-Ulam stability of the functional equation (1.3) in Banach modules over a  $C^*$ -algebra. These results are applied to investigate  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphisms in unital  $C^*$ -algebras. Also, one can get the super-stability results after all theorems by putting the product of powers of norms as the control functions (see for more details [60, 61]).

Throughout this paper, assume that  $A$  is a unital  $C^*$ -algebra with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_A$  and the unit  $e$ ,  $B$  is a unital  $C^*$ -algebra with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_B$ , and  $X, Y$  are left Banach modules over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  with the norms  $\|\cdot\|_X$  and  $\|\cdot\|_Y$ , respectively. Let  $U(A)$  be the group of unitary elements in  $A$  and let  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \mathbb{R}$ .

## 2 Hyers-Ulam stability of the functional equation (1.3) in Banach modules over a $C^*$ -algebra

For any given mapping  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ ,  $u \in U(A)$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ , we define  $D_{u,r_1,\dots,r_n}f$  and  $D_{\mu,r_1,\dots,r_n}f : X^n \rightarrow Y$  by

$$\begin{aligned} D_{u,r_1,\dots,r_n}f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ := \sum_{j=1}^n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq j} r_i u x_i - \frac{1}{2} r_j u x_j\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n r_i u f(x_i) - n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i u x_i\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\mu,r_1,\dots,r_n}f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ := \sum_{j=1}^n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n, i \neq j} \mu r_i x_i - \frac{1}{2} \mu r_j x_j\right) + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu r_i f(x_i) - n f\left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu r_i x_i\right) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ .

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be linear spaces and let  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  be real numbers with  $\sum_{k=1}^n r_k \neq 0$  and  $r_i \neq 0, r_j \neq 0$  for some  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ . Assume that a mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the functional equation (1.3) for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ . Then the mapping  $L$  is additive. Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .*

*Proof* One can find a complete proof at [62]. □

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be linear spaces and let  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  be real numbers with  $r_i \neq 0, r_j \neq 0$  for some  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ . Assume that a mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  with  $L(0) = 0$  satisfies the functional equation (1.3) for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ . Then the mapping  $L$  is additive. Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .*

*Proof* One can find a complete proof at [62]. □

We investigate the Hyers-Ulam stability of a generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping in Banach modules over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra. Throughout this paper, let  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  be real numbers such that  $r_i \neq 0, r_j \neq 0$  for fixed  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ .

**Theorem 2.3** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping satisfying  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : X^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that

$$\|D_{e,r_1,\dots,r_n}f(x_1,\dots,x_n)\|_Y \leq \varphi(x_1,\dots,x_n) \quad (2.1)$$

for all  $x_1,\dots,x_n \in X$ . Let

$$\varphi_{ij}(x,y) := \varphi(0,\dots,0,\underbrace{x}_{i\text{th}},0,\dots,0,\underbrace{y}_{j\text{th}},0,\dots,0)$$

for all  $x,y \in X$  and  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(2x_1,\dots,2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1,\dots,x_n)$$

for all  $x_1,\dots,x_n \in X$ , then there exists a unique generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x) - L(x)\|_Y \leq & \frac{1}{4-4C} \left\{ \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right) \right. \\ & \left. + \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, 0\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, 0\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(0, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(0, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

*Proof* For each  $1 \leq k \leq n$  with  $k \neq i, j$ , let  $x_k = 0$  in (2.1). Then we get the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| f\left(\frac{-r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{r_i x_i - r_j x_j}{2}\right) - 2f\left(\frac{r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right) + r_i f(x_i) + r_j f(x_j) \right\|_Y \\ & \leq \varphi(0,\dots,0,\underbrace{x_i}_{i\text{th}},0,\dots,0,\underbrace{x_j}_{j\text{th}},0,\dots,0) \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

for all  $x_i, x_j \in X$ . Letting  $x_i = 0$  in (2.3), we get

$$\left\| f\left(-\frac{r_j x_j}{2}\right) - f\left(\frac{r_j x_j}{2}\right) + r_j f(x_j) \right\|_Y \leq \varphi_{ij}(0, x_j) \quad (2.4)$$

for all  $x_j \in X$ . Similarly, letting  $x_j = 0$  in (2.3), we get

$$\left\| f\left(-\frac{r_i x_i}{2}\right) - f\left(\frac{r_i x_i}{2}\right) + r_i f(x_i) \right\|_Y \leq \varphi_{ij}(x_i, 0) \quad (2.5)$$

for all  $x_i \in X$ . It follows from (2.3), (2.4) and (2.5) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| f\left(\frac{-r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{r_i x_i - r_j x_j}{2}\right) - 2f\left(\frac{r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + f\left(\frac{r_i x_i}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{r_j x_j}{2}\right) - f\left(-\frac{r_i x_i}{2}\right) - f\left(-\frac{r_j x_j}{2}\right) \right\|_Y \\ & \leq \varphi_{ij}(x_i, x_j) + \varphi_{ij}(x_i, 0) + \varphi_{ij}(0, x_j) \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

for all  $x_i, x_j \in X$ . Replacing  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  by  $\frac{2x}{r_i}$  and  $\frac{2y}{r_j}$  in (2.6), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \|f(-x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f(x+y) + f(x) + f(y) - f(-x) - f(-y)\|_Y \\ & \leq \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, \frac{2y}{r_j}\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, 0\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(0, \frac{2y}{r_j}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Putting  $y = x$  in (2.7), we get

$$\|2f(x) - 2f(-x) - 2f(2x)\|_Y \leq \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, 0\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(0, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) \quad (2.8)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Replacing  $x$  and  $y$  by  $\frac{x}{2}$  and  $-\frac{x}{2}$  in (2.7), respectively, we get

$$\|f(x) + f(-x)\|_Y \leq \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, 0\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(0, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right) \quad (2.9)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . It follows from (2.8) and (2.9) that

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}f(2x) - f(x) \right\|_Y \leq \frac{1}{4}\psi(x) \quad (2.10)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(x) := & \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right) \\ & + \varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{2x}{r_i}, 0\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(\frac{x}{r_i}, 0\right) + \varphi_{ij}\left(0, \frac{2x}{r_j}\right) + 2\varphi_{ij}\left(0, -\frac{x}{r_j}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the set  $\mathcal{W} := \{g : X \rightarrow Y\}$  and introduce the generalized metric on  $\mathcal{W}$ :

$$d(g, h) = \inf\{C \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \|g(x) - h(x)\|_Y \leq C\psi(x), \forall x \in X\}.$$

It is easy to show that  $(\mathcal{W}, d)$  is complete.

Now, we consider the linear mapping  $J : \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  such that

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{2}g(2x) \quad (2.11)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . By Theorem 3.1 of [44],  $d(Jg, Jh) \leq Cd(g, h)$  for all  $g, h \in \mathcal{W}$ . Hence,  $d(f, Jf) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ .

By Theorem 1.1, there exists a mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  such that

(1)  $L$  is a fixed point of  $J$ , i.e.,

$$L(2x) = 2L(x) \quad (2.12)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . The mapping  $L$  is a unique fixed point of  $J$  in the set

$$Z = \{g \in \mathcal{W} : d(f, g) < \infty\}.$$

This implies that  $L$  is a unique mapping satisfying (2.12) such that there exists  $C \in (0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$\|L(x) - f(x)\|_Y \leq C\psi(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ .

(2)  $d(J^n f, L) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . This implies the equality

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} = L(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ .

(3)  $d(f, L) \leq \frac{1}{1-C} d(f, Jf)$ , which implies the inequality  $d(f, L) \leq \frac{1}{4-4C}$ . This implies that the inequality (2.2) holds.

Since  $\varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|D_{e, r_1, \dots, r_n} L(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_Y &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|D_{e, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(2^k x_1, \dots, 2^k x_n)\|_Y \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(2^k x_1, \dots, 2^k x_n) \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} C^k \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ . Therefore, the mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the equation (1.3) and  $L(0) = 0$ . Hence, by Lemma 2.2,  $L$  is a generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping and  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.4** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping satisfying  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : X^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$\|D_{u, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\| \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad (2.13)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$  and  $u \in U(A)$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ , then there exists a unique  $A$ -linear generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying (2.2) for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

*Proof* By Theorem 2.3, there exists a unique generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying (2.2), and moreover  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . By the assumption, for each  $u \in U(A)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\|D_{u, r_1, \dots, r_n} L(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{x}_{\text{ith}}, 0, \dots, 0)\|_Y \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|D_{u, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{2^k x}_{\text{ith}}, 0, \dots, 0)\|_Y \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{2^k x}_{\text{ith}}, 0, \dots, 0) \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} C^k \varphi(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{x}_{\text{ith}}, 0, \dots, 0) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . So, we have

$$r_i uL(x) = L(r_i u x)$$

for all  $u \in U(A)$  and  $x \in X$ . Since  $L(r_i x) = r_i L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $r_i \neq 0$ ,

$$L(ux) = uL(x)$$

for all  $u \in U(A)$  and  $x \in X$ . By the same reasoning as in the proofs of [63] and [64],

$$L(ax + by) = L(ax) + L(by) = aL(x) + bL(y)$$

for all  $a, b \in A$  ( $a, b \neq 0$ ) and  $x, y \in X$ . Since  $L(0x) = 0 = 0L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ , the unique generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  is an  $A$ -linear mapping. This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping satisfying  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : X^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that*

$$\|D_{e, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_Y \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad (2.14)$$

*for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that*

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq \frac{C}{2} \varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n)$$

*for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ , then there exists a unique generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x) - L(x)\|_Y &\leq \frac{C}{4 - 4C} \left\{ \varphi_{ij} \left( \frac{2x}{r_i}, \frac{2x}{r_j} \right) + 2\varphi_{ij} \left( \frac{x}{r_i}, -\frac{x}{r_j} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \varphi_{ij} \left( \frac{2x}{r_i}, 0 \right) + 2\varphi_{ij} \left( \frac{x}{r_i}, 0 \right) + \varphi_{ij} \left( 0, \frac{2x}{r_j} \right) + 2\varphi_{ij} \left( 0, -\frac{x}{r_j} \right) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

*for all  $x \in X$ , where  $\varphi_{ij}$  is defined in the statement of Theorem 2.3. Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .*

*Proof* It follows from (2.10) that

$$\left\| f(x) - f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\|_Y \leq \frac{1}{2} \psi\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \leq \frac{C}{4} \psi(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , where  $\psi$  is defined in the proof of Theorem 2.3. The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.6** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : X^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$\|D_{u,r_1,\dots,r_n}f(x_1,\dots,x_n)\| \leq \varphi(x_1,\dots,x_n) \quad (2.16)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$  and  $u \in U(A)$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq \frac{C}{2} \varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ , then there exists a unique  $A$ -linear generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $L : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying (2.15) for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover,  $L(r_k x) = r_k L(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and all  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

*Proof* The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.4.  $\square$

**Remark 2.7** In Theorems 2.5 and 2.6, one can assume that  $\sum_{k=1}^n r_k \neq 0$  instead of  $f(0) = 0$ .

### 3 Homomorphisms in unital $C^*$ -algebras

In this section, we investigate  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphisms in unital  $C^*$ -algebras. We use the following lemma in the proof of the next theorem.

**Lemma 3.1** [64] Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be an additive mapping such that  $f(\mu x) = \mu f(x)$  for all  $x \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}_{\frac{1}{n_0}}^1 := \{e^{i\theta}; 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi n_0\}$ . Then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear.

Note that a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear mapping  $H : A \rightarrow B$  is called a *homomorphism* in  $C^*$ -algebras if  $H$  satisfies  $H(xy) = H(x)H(y)$  and  $H(x^*) = H(x)^*$  for all  $x, y \in A$ .

**Theorem 3.2** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$\|D_{\mu,r_1,\dots,r_n}f(x_1,\dots,x_n)\|_B \leq \varphi(x_1,\dots,x_n), \quad (3.1)$$

$$\|f(2^k u^*) - f(2^k u)^*\|_B \leq \varphi(\underbrace{2^k u, \dots, 2^k u}_{n \text{ times}}), \quad (3.2)$$

$$\|f(2^k ux) - f(2^k u)f(x)\|_B \leq \varphi(\underbrace{2^k ux, \dots, 2^k ux}_{n \text{ times}}) \quad (3.3)$$

for all  $x, x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ ,  $u \in U(A)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}^1$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.

*Proof* Since  $|J| \geq 3$ , letting  $\mu = 1$  and  $x_k = 0$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq n$  ( $k \neq i, j$ ) in (3.1), we get

$$f\left(\frac{-r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{r_i x_i - r_j x_j}{2}\right) + r_i f(x_i) + r_j f(x_j) = 2f\left(\frac{r_i x_i + r_j x_j}{2}\right)$$



for all  $x_i, x_j \in A$ . By the same reasoning as in the proof of Lemma 2.1, the mapping  $f$  is additive and  $f(r_k x) = r_k f(x)$  for all  $x \in A$  and  $k = i, j$ . So, by letting  $x_i = x$  and  $x_k = 0$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq n$ ,  $k \neq i$ , in (3.1), we get  $f(\mu x) = \mu f(x)$  for all  $x \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}^1$ . Therefore, by Lemma 3.1, the mapping  $f$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear. Hence, it follows from (3.2) and (3.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(u^*) - f(u)^*\|_B &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|f(2^k u^*) - f(2^k u)^*\|_B \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(\underbrace{2^k u, \dots, 2^k u}_{n \text{ times}}) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} C^k \varphi(\underbrace{u, \dots, u}_{n \text{ times}}) \\ &= 0, \\ \|f(ux) - f(u)f(x)\|_B &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|f(2^k ux) - f(2^k u)f(x)\|_B \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(\underbrace{2^k ux, \dots, 2^k ux}_{n \text{ times}}) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} C^k \varphi(\underbrace{ux, \dots, ux}_{n \text{ times}}) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in A$  and  $u \in U(A)$ . So, we have  $f(u^*) = f(u)^*$  and  $f(ux) = f(u)f(x)$  for all  $x \in A$  and  $u \in U(A)$ . Since  $f$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear and each  $x \in A$  is a finite linear combination of unitary elements (see [65]), i.e.,  $x = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k$ , where  $\lambda_k \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $u_k \in U(A)$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x^*) &= f\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k u_k^*\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k f(u_k^*) = \sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k f(u_k)^* \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k f(u_k)\right)^* = f\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k\right)^* = f(x)^*, \\ f(xy) &= f\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k y\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k f(u_k y) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k f(u_k) f(y) = f\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k\right) f(y) = f(x) f(y) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in A$ . Therefore, the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following theorem is an alternative result of Theorem 3.2.

**Theorem 3.3** *Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying*

$$\begin{aligned} \|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_B &\leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n), \\ \left\| f\left(\frac{u^*}{2^k}\right) - f\left(\frac{u}{2^k}\right)^* \right\|_B &\leq \phi\left(\underbrace{\frac{u}{2^k}, \dots, \frac{u}{2^k}}_{n \text{ times}}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

$$\left\| f\left(\frac{ux}{2^k}\right) - f\left(\frac{u}{2^k}\right)f(x) \right\|_B \leq \phi\left(\underbrace{\frac{ux}{2^k}, \dots, \frac{ux}{2^k}}_{n \text{ times}}\right) \quad (3.5)$$

for all  $x, x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ ,  $u \in U(A)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}^1$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq \frac{C}{2} \varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.

**Remark 3.4** In Theorems 3.2 and 3.3, one can assume that  $\sum_{k=1}^n r_k \neq 0$  instead of  $f(0) = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.5** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying (3.2), (3.3) and

$$\|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_B \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad (3.6)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}^1$ . Assume that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^k e)$  is invertible. If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.

*Proof* Consider the  $C^*$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$  as left Banach modules over the unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathbb{C}$ . By Theorem 2.4, there exists a unique  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $H : A \rightarrow B$  defined by

$$H(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^k x)$$

for all  $x \in A$ . By (3.2) and (3.3), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|H(u^*) - H(u)^*\|_B &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|f(2^k u^*) - f(2^k u)^*\|_B \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(\underbrace{2^k u, \dots, 2^k u}_{n \text{ times}}) \\ &= 0, \\ \|H(ux) - H(u)f(x)\|_B &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|f(2^k ux) - f(2^k u)f(x)\|_B \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(\underbrace{2^k ux, \dots, 2^k ux}_{n \text{ times}}) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $u \in U(A)$  and  $x \in A$ . So, we have  $H(u^*) = H(u)^*$  and  $H(ux) = H(u)f(x)$  for all  $u \in U(A)$  and  $x \in A$ . Therefore, by the additivity of  $H$ , we have

$$H(ux) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} H(2^k ux) = H(u) \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^k x) = H(u)H(x) \quad (3.7)$$

for all  $u \in U(A)$  and all  $x \in A$ . Since  $H$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear and each  $x \in A$  is a finite linear combination of unitary elements, i.e.,  $x = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k$ , where  $\lambda_k \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $u_k \in U(A)$  for all  $1 \leq k \leq m$ , it follows from (3.7) that

$$\begin{aligned} H(xy) &= H\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k y\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k H(u_k y) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k H(u_k) H(y) = H\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k\right) H(y) \\ &= H(x) H(y), \\ H(x^*) &= H\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k u_k^*\right) = \sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k H(u_k^*) = \sum_{k=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_k H(u_k)^* \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k H(u_k)\right)^* = H\left(\sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k\right)^* \\ &= H(x)^* \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y \in A$ . Since  $H(e) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^k e)$  is invertible and

$$H(e)H(y) = H(ey) = H(e)f(y)$$

for all  $y \in A$ , it follows that  $H(y) = f(y)$  for all  $y \in A$ . Therefore, the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following theorem is an alternative result of Theorem 3.5.

**Theorem 3.6** *Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying (3.4), (3.5) and*

$$\|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_B \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

*for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{S}^1$ . Assume that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^k f(\frac{e}{2^k})$  is invertible. If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that*

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq \frac{C}{2} \varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n)$$

*for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.*

**Remark 3.7** In Theorem 3.6, one can assume that  $\sum_{k=1}^n r_k \neq 0$  instead of  $f(0) = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.8** *Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying (3.2), (3.3) and*

$$\|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_B \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad (3.8)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  and  $\mu = i, 1$ . Assume that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^k e)$  is invertible and for each fixed  $x \in A$  the mapping  $t \mapsto f(tx)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that

$$\varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq 2C\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.

*Proof* Put  $\mu = 1$  in (3.8). By the same reasoning as in the proof of Theorem 2.3, there exists a unique generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $H : A \rightarrow B$  defined by

$$H(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^k x)}{2^k}$$

for all  $x \in A$ . By the same reasoning as in the proof of [58], the generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $H : A \rightarrow B$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear. By the same method as in the proof of Theorem 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} H(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{x}_{j\text{th}}, 0, \dots, 0)\|_Y \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{2^k x}_{j\text{th}}, 0, \dots, 0)\|_Y \\ &\leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(0, \dots, 0, \underbrace{2^k x}_{j\text{th}}, 0, \dots, 0) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in A$  and so

$$r_j \mu H(x) = H(r_j \mu x)$$

for all  $x \in A$ . Since  $H(r_j x) = r_j H(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $r_j \neq 0$ ,

$$H(\mu x) = \mu H(x)$$

for all  $x \in A$  and  $\mu = i, 1$ . For each  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have  $\lambda = s + it$ , where  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Thus, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} H(\lambda x) &= H(sx + itx) = sH(x) + tH(ix) \\ &= sH(x) + itH(x) = (s + it)H(x) \\ &= \lambda H(x) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x \in A$  and so

$$H(\zeta x + \eta y) = H(\zeta x) + H(\eta y) = \zeta H(x) + \eta H(y)$$

for all  $\zeta, \eta \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $x, y \in A$ . Hence, the generalized Euler-Lagrange type additive mapping  $H : A \rightarrow B$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear.

The rest of the proof is the same as in the proof of Theorem 3.5. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following theorem is an alternative result of Theorem 3.8.

**Theorem 3.9** *Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there is a function  $\varphi : A^n \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying (3.4), (3.5) and*

$$\|D_{\mu, r_1, \dots, r_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\|_B \leq \varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

*for all  $x, x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$  and  $\mu = i, 1$ . Assume that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})$  is invertible and for each fixed  $x \in A$  the mapping  $t \mapsto f(tx)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . If there exists  $0 < C < 1$  such that*

$$\varphi(x_1, \dots, 2x_n) \leq \frac{C}{2} \varphi(2x_1, \dots, 2x_n)$$

*for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in A$ , then the mapping  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra homomorphism.*

**Proof** We omit the proof because it is very similar to last theorem. □

**Remark 3.10** In Theorem 3.9, one can assume that  $\sum_{k=1}^n r_k \neq 0$  instead of  $f(0) = 0$ .

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors conceived of the study, participated in its design and coordination, drafted the manuscript, participated in the sequence alignment, and read and approved the final manuscript.

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